



National Aeronautics and  
Space Administration  
Goddard Space Flight Center

# Inside Wallops

Wallops Flight Facility, Wallops Island, Virginia

Volume XIX-97 Number 10 April 28, 1997

## Wallops Supports Pegasus Mission

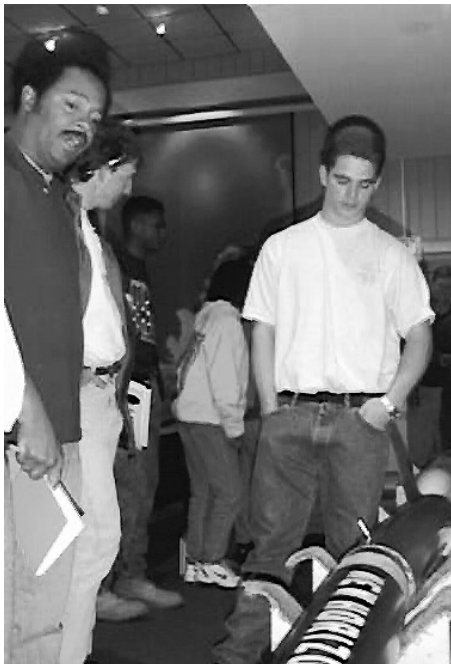
The Wallops Flight Facility flawlessly provided several major support functions for the April 21 launch of the Pegasus rocket from the Canary Islands.

Wallops provided range safety, tracking, and data acquisition and display support from a remote range established at the Maspalomas Space Station on the Southern Coast of Gran Canaria.

Mike Fillis, Wallops project manager, said "All of the WFF equipment and personnel performed flawlessly."

Carrying a scientific satellite, called MINISAT, for Spain, the Pegasus was dropped from the L-1011 aircraft at 7:59 a.m.

The Wallops support crew is expected back to the Facility this week. Congratulations on a successful mission.



Geoff Bland (left) (Code 831) and Dave Burkhead (center) (CSC) discuss rocket system operations with student Sam Alvord from the New Horizons Governors School, Hampton, Va.

Students from the school, in conjunction with the Hampton Roads Chapter of the National Space Society, built the 13.5-foot high powered rocket.

The rocket, carrying a video camera, was successfully launched to an altitude of 1,096 feet on the Wallops Main Base April 22.

The vehicle was recovered in good shape.

## Expanded Flexible Work Schedule (FWS) Briefings

Effective May 11, 1997, the Goddard Space Flight Center's Wallops Flight Facility will implement an Expanded Flexible Work Schedule (FWS) in addition to the Flexitour work schedule. The expanded FWS enables NASA Wallops Civil Service employees to arrange a schedule that may be better suited to personal needs than the traditional 8-hour day and 40-hour week.

### Employee Briefings

The Office of Human Resources will conduct briefings to explain the expanded FWS options available. The employee briefings are scheduled for April 30 and May 1 in Building F-3. The hour-long sessions include time for a question and answer period. Please plan your attendance consistent with the alphabetical schedule below. If you will not be able to attend the scheduled briefing, you will be permitted to attend an alternate session. For further information contact Lisa Johnson, x1151, or Pat Pruitt, x1411.

<i>Employees</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>
<i>All Supervisory Employees</i>		
	April 30	10:30 - 11:45
<i>Non-Supervisory Whose Last Names Begin With:</i>		
A - D	April 30	1:00 - 2:15
E - K	April 30	2:30 - 3:45
L - N	May 1	10:30 - 11:45
P - Sh	May 1	1:00 - 2:15
Si - Y	May 1	2:30 - 3:45

## NASA Suspends Bion Participation

NASA is suspending its participation in primate research on the Bion 12 mission, part of an international project to study the physiological effects of low gravity and space radiation.

NASA's decision is based on the recommendations of an independent review board requested by the Agency to look into the post-flight death of a rhesus monkey following the successful flight and landing of the Bion 11 satellite.

The panel found that there was an unexpected mortality risk associated with anesthesia for surgical procedures (biopsy of bone and muscle) on the day following return from space.

NASA has determined that this risk is unacceptable and is, therefore, discontinuing its participation in the primate experiments on Bion 12.

## Plant Growth Increases in 1980s

Plant growth in Earth's northern regions increased by ten percent from 1981 to 1991, according to new NASA-funded research published in the April 17 issue of the scientific journal "nature."

These findings imply that vegetation in Earth's northern high latitudes (between 45-70 degrees North) is actively responding to previously reported measurements of increasing atmospheric carbon dioxide levels and warmer-than-average surface temperatures in the north during the past three decades.

While the global effects of such greening may be small, "regionally they could be highly significant for interests such as agriculture and land-use planning," said co-author Dr. Ghassem Asrar of NASA Headquarters. "In addition, our initial analysis of data from 1992-1994 indicates that the trends are continuing."

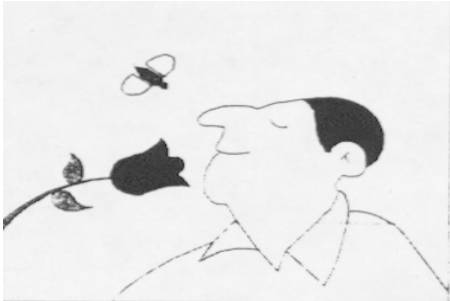
**Health Hints**

*by Dianne Hargrove, R.N.*

**Spring Time is Sting Time**

Some harbingers of spring aren't nearly as welcome as the first robins. Stinging insects, especially honey-bees, wasps, jellow jackets and hornets, are a nuisance to anyone trying to enjoy the out-of-doors.

For some people, an insect sting poses a serious threat. A strong allergic reaction to bee venom can cause death. A few simple common-sense precautions can prevent getting stung.



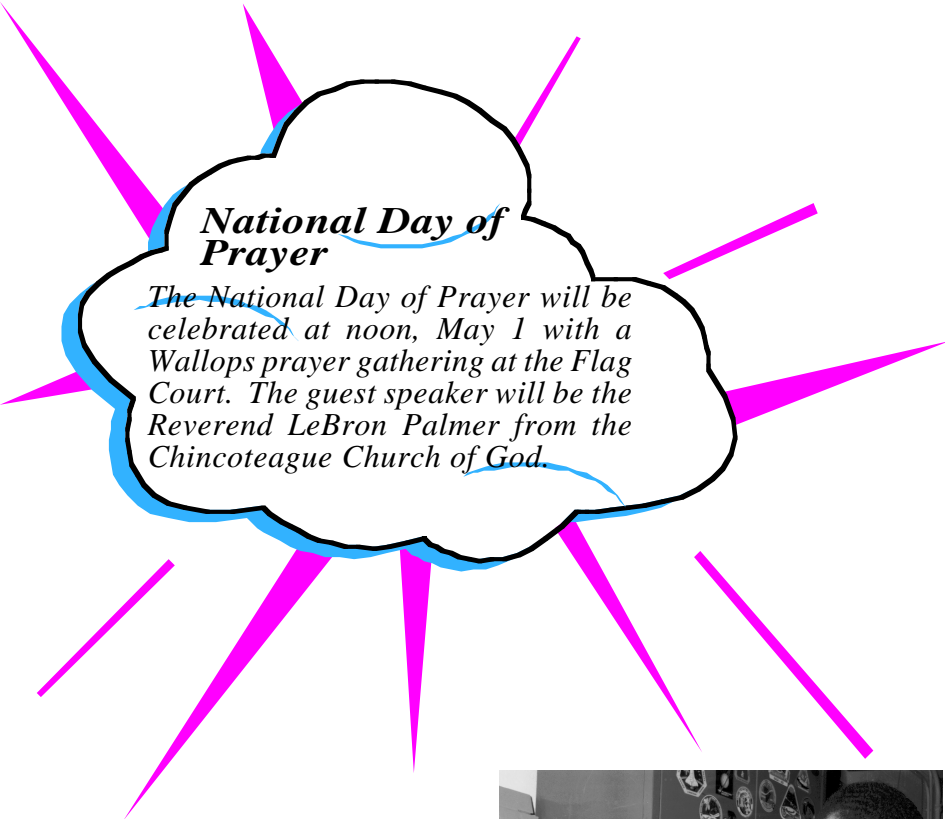
- If you encounter a stinging insect, move away slowly. It is looking for pollen, not you, and probably will not attack unless provoked.
- If a stinging insect lands on your body, swiftly brush it away, never slap it against you. Slapping will trap the insect, make it mad, and cause it to sting.
- Wear shoes, especially through low-lying flowers such as clover.
- Be especially careful after rain. Pollen is scarce then and insects are more easily provoked.
- Don't look or smell like a blossom. Light-covered clothing, floral prints or sweet-smelling cosmetics can attract an insect.
- Check windows for holes in screens or other open spots where insects can get in.
- The best way to treat a sting is to wash it with soap and water. Ice helps reduce pain and swelling. For more serious symptoms, get medical help as soon as possible.

**Kitchen Clean-Up. Bldg. F-3, April 30. We need your help right after work. Call Pat Pruitt, x1411.**

**Volunteers Sought**

The Wallops Flight Facility will be providing astronomy related hands-on activities for children from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. May 10 at the Holly Center Annual Fair in Salisbury.

Any employees wishing to volunteer an hour or two to support this activity please call the Public Affairs Office at x1579.



**Retirees and Alumni Get Together**

An organizational meeting of the Wallops Retirees and Alumni Club (WRAC) will be held at noon on May 16 in the Williamsburg Room of the cafeteria.

The future of WRAC will be determined by the interest shown at this meeting. Attendees will be responsible for the cost of their lunch from the cafeteria.

Those planning to attend should call Darlene Floyd, (757) 336-5662, or Larry Lees, (757) 824-2040, by May 9.

**Cinco De Mayo Day**



**May 5  
4:45 p.m.  
Bldg. F-3**

**Call Jan,  
x1526 for  
further  
info.**



*The Wallops Flight Facility is one of several organizations participating in the first Accomack County Public Schools' Internship Program. Chester Hall, a senior at Arcadia High School is spending 144 hours this semester working with Chuck Brodell in the Mechanical Systems Group. Through the internship, students are afforded the opportunity for practical learning experiences and observations. Photo by Tom Burton.*

*Inside Wallops* is an official publication of Goddard Space Flight Center and is published by the Wallops Office of Public Affairs, Extension 1584 or 1579, in the interest of Wallops employees

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